

*ACEC/Division of Engineering Services
Structures Liaison Committee*

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: July 31, 2009
TIME: 10:00 am – 12:30 pm
LOCATION: Caltrans Division of Engineering Services
1801 30th Street, Room 102
Sacramento CA, 95816

MINUTES:

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Self Introductions
- B. No changes to agenda

II. REPORTS ON TECHNICAL TOPICS

A. New Seismic Hazard Maps (Mark Willian)

Mark Willian of Caltrans said that eight consulting firms participated in the beta testing of the new Seismic Hazard Map and spread sheets. Caltrans is incorporating several of the comments. In-house training was performed on 7/30/09. The current status is that the implementation memo needs to be reviewed and signed by Jim, Dolores and Kevin. Any project getting Type Selection Approval after 9/30/09 would need to use the new ARS Online Tool.

Action item: Caltrans to issue implementation memo.

B. Expansive Soil Exclusion Zone (Mark Willian)

Mark said the lab is working on a major rewrite to the Guidelines for Structures Foundation Reports. Caltrans will ask ACEC for input prior to finalizing. Their goal is to complete the new guidelines by the end of the year.

Action item: Caltrans to complete new Guidelines for Structures Foundation Reports.

C. CTBridge Updates: (Jim Davis)

The current version of CTBridge does not incorporate the 4th edition of the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications (including amendments). Caltrans is expecting to have an updated version by September. Caltrans legal division has approved a Maintenance Agreement; however they are not sure what the fee will be. There will be free CTBridge updates until the agreements are prepared, possibly January 2010. Only CTBridge updates will be available, no support services. Also at that time an internet web site may also be available. There is an engineering blog forum set up for CTBridge.

Action item: Paul Young and Jay Holombo to work together on informing people about the CTBridge forum.

D. AASHTO/Design Specifications/Blue Sheets/MTD (Kammy Bhala)

Kammy gave an update on the AASHTO Meeting attended by Sue and Kevin the first week in July. The number of issues on the specifications is going down. There is an updated Guide Specification for Isolation Design. The final ballot items are on the AASHTO website. Full implementation may take 3 to 6 months.

The Caltrans Reinforced Concrete Committee will be combined with the Prestressed Concrete Committee.

E. 2010 Standard Specifications (Mark Reno/Sudhakar Vatti)

Jill Sewell of Office Engineer has prepared a PowerPoint presentation that can be available to ACEC members. A web hosting seminar appears to be the best avenue for the presentation. Mark said the webinar would be \$99/month and 1000 sites can dial in. This would not be interactive, but you would be able to send in questions.

F. Caltrans Standard Specifications Section 90 (Tom Ruckman)

The manufacturing of Portland Cement produces green house gas emissions. To reduce the amount of emissions, the amount of cement is to be reduced and replaced with other materials. Numerous changes are being made to Section 90. Tom described these changes along with handing out a summary sheet (attached). The new Section 90 is being implemented on all state advertised projects.

III. UPDATES

A. ACEC Updates:

1. Updating Charter (Wei Koo)

Wei, Jim, Tony and Mark had a phone conference to discuss and develop a revised charter. One of the goals is to make this committee part of the statewide committee to focus solely on technical issues. There is a provision to interact directly with the statewide committee when an issue could involve both committees. Subcommittees will be utilized for working out technical issues. The number of ACEC members will be expanded by one to a total of five regular members.

The Charter was unanimously approved.

Action item: Wei to send Sudhakar the final charter in MSWord format.

2. Invoicing on Caltrans Contracts (Tony Marquez)

Tony has met with various staff to discuss consultant invoicing on Caltrans Contracts.

Action item: Tony to continue to meet with staff to see if the process can be improved.

3. Technical Workshops

- a. Trenching and Shoring: Steve Yee from Caltrans District 11 discussed this year's winter training topics. The topics are as follows: Cal OSHA, Soil Classification, LOTB's, Soil Mechanics, Mohr's Circle, Loads, Earth Pressure Theories, Surcharge (including Railroad Surcharge), Restrained and Unrestrained Systems, and possibly Soil Nails. The class is approximately 11 hours of instruction. There may be two ACEC sessions (one in Northern and the other in Southern California) sometime in late April or early March.

Action item: Mark A. and Rob to discuss logistics in late September.

- b. CIDH Piling:

Action item: Dolores and Mark A. to get together on this issue.

B. Project Development Oversight/Update (Lam Nguyen):

1. They are going to try and rotate some Local Assistance personnel with Special Funded Projects personnel.
2. With the State utilizing three furlough days a month there may be some delays in response time.
3. Caltrans is moving forward with 10 design-build contracts mandated by the State Legislature. Sudhakar is on the technical team with the RFQ/RFP process. They had their first meeting the week of July 20. The goal is to have the first RFP out by 10/1/09. Walt, Wei and Steve volunteered to be on a subcommittee to advise Caltrans.

C. DES Update (Jim Davis):

1. Today (7/31/09) is Will Kempton's last day.
2. Randy Iwasaki has been confirmed as Will's replacement.
3. Caltrans is partnering with the high speed rail. Jess Avila is the new liaison. The first segment is likely to be from Los Angeles to Anaheim.

D. Contracting Opportunities (Tony Marquez)

1. It is anticipated that there will be a \$10 million reduction in this fiscal year budget.
2. Caltrans will maintain a skeleton crew in construction on furlough Fridays.

E. ACEC Statewide Meeting Report (Thomas Post)

1. DBE guidelines are now on the website. Caltrans is planning to do a new Disparity Study.
2. Caltrans has obligated \$2.2 billion in stimulus funding. \$1 billion to go to the local agencies.
3. March 2010 is the next bond vote.

F. Western Bridge Engineers Conference (Kevin Thompson)

1. It will be September 21, 22 & 23rd at the Sacramento Convention Center.
2. There is a new technical program with 4 sessions and 100 presentations.
3. The website is: <http://www.westernbridge.net/info.php>

IV. NEXT MEETINGS

Next meeting - December 10th (Sacramento, with video capabilities to people in Southern California)

Following Meeting – March 25th

Following Meeting – June 24th

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